

SAFETY BULLETIN

SB01-008 Safety Bulletin Heating Season 2000

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Heating Maintenance Checks and Services

You should have these items performed during an annual maintenance check of your home heating furnace.

1. Vacuum and clean burners. Dirt can keep burners from igniting properly and burning fuel efficiently.
2. Clean and adjust the pilot or flame sensor. A clean, properly adjusted pilot or sensor prevents delayed ignition and sends a concise signal to the safety device that the pilot is on and ready to go.
3. Adjust the primary air for efficient combustion. The wrong setting can cause soot and increased fuel demands.
4. Adjust the gas pressure. Furnaces are designed to operate at a fixed gas pressure. If the pressure is low, the furnace could operate longer to compensate. If the pressure is high, the furnace could backdraft at ignition causing an unsafe condition.
5. Check for gas leaks in the furnace. Small leaks at the furnace often go undetected by you because of the natural draft of the furnace.
6. Check and lubricate the motor and blower bearings. Bearings that do not get lubricated will become harder to turn, increasing the amount of electricity the motor uses and decreasing the life of the motor.
7. Clean or replace the air filter. A dirty air filter reduces the amount of air flow, causing the furnace to run longer.
8. Check all safety controls. Safety controls such as limit switches turn the furnace off if an unsafe condition occurs. The controls protect you if other components fail in the furnace.



Fireplaces: A roaring fire in your fireplace can drain your furnace's air supply. Either use glass doors on the fireplace or crack a window to supplement the air supply to the fireplace.

Carbon Monoxide Detectors: What is carbon monoxide (CO) and why do I need a carbon monoxide detector?

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless and toxic gas produced as a by-product of combustion. Any fuel burning appliance, vehicle, tool or other device has the potential to produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide gas.



The Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) reports that approximately 200 people per year are killed by accidental CO poisoning with an additional 5000 people injured. These deaths and injuries are typically caused by improperly used or malfunctioning equipment aggravated by improvements in building construction, which limit the amount of fresh air flowing into homes and other structures.

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DES, Safety Division